ensuring timely availability of inputs and infrastructural facilities, better capacity utilisation, improvement in productivity and maintaining good industrial relations.

Collapse of coalmines in Dhanbad

434. SHRI YERRA NARAYANASWAMY: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons who died in coal mines collapse, in Dhanbad during this year;

(b) the reasons for the collapse; and

(c) the steps taken to stop illegal mining?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY): (a) and (b) Five employees died in coal mines collapse, which was predominantly due to roof and side fall, in under-ground mines of Coal India Limited in the district of Dhanbad during the current calendar year (upto 25th May, 1998)

(c) Coal mining in the organised sector is carried out scientifically and in accordance with the various statutes laid down in this regard. However cases of illegal mining by antisocial elements occur from time to time. Control of illegal mining is squarely a law and order problem which can be tackled only by the respective State Governments acting through the local administration. However, some of the steps taken by the coal companies to check illegal mining are as below:—

(i) The coal companies maintain close liaison with the State/District authorities and the police to keep a check on illegal mining.

(ii) On receipt of information on illegal mining and after preliminary enquiry, a First Information Report is filed with the local police.

(iii) The Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) and the company's security personnel regularly patrol the areas where illegal mining have been reported earlier. The CISF, in association with local police, also conduct raids on illegal mining sites wherever information reaches the authorities.

(iv) As far as possible, the exposed coal face in workings are covered with debris.

(v) Surprise checks and raids are conducted at the illegal mining sites by the security staff of the coal compaies.

Illegal mining in Dhanbad coal mines

435. SHRI YERRA NARAYANA SWAMY: Will the Ministr of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether illegal mining has been going on in Dhanbad coal mines; and

(b) if so, the steps taken to stop the activities of coal mafia in Eastern Coalfields Limited?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY):

(a) and (b) Illegal mining activities in the nature of surreptious extraction and pilferage of coal from abandoned, closed and disussed mines and also from outcrop region have been reported from time to time from the coal mining area of Dhanbad.

The following steps are being taken for prevention of illegal mining in the leasehold areas:_

(i) round the clock vigil by the company's security personnel in the area prone to illegal mining.

(ii) patrolling by security/armed guards, surprise raids by the security staff and joint raids with State Police.

(iii) covering the vulnerable areas by information network and also by electronic communication network wherever possible,

(iv) development and maintenance of intelligence sources/informers for the surveillance and conducting raids.

(v) covering the exposed coal seams in abandoned open cast mines by dumping overburden and sealing of abandoned underground openings, and

(vi) filing FIRs with the respective police station and liaisioning with the State Government law enforcing authorities.

Information in regard to illegal mining outside the leasehold areas of the national is coal company is promptly given to the concerned State Administration for appropriate action.

Distribution of coal royalty

436. SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA NAHATA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether representations have been received against discrimination in distribution of coal royalty;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the established conventions to stipulate the royalty rates; and

(d) by when the rates of royalty are proposed to be revised?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY): (a) and (b) In addition to royalty on coal, several State Governments had in the past imposed cesses on coal. The Acts imposing such cesses had been struck down by the Supreme Court and the High Courts except in the case of West Bengal the Acts of the State are pending the decision of the Supreme Court. As the cesses in West Bengal are levied at a rate much higher than the royalty on coal, the rates of coal royalty introduced in August, 1991 are continuing in the State of West Bengal. A representation from the Government of West Bengal requesting for the extension of coal royalty at the current rates has been received.

(c) Since 1968 the royalty rates on coal have been stipulated on tonnage basis.

(d) The mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act, 1957 does not contemplate the automatic revision of royalties on minerals after any specified period.

Revision in the rates of royalty on coal

.437. SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA NAHATA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Study Group set up for revision in the rates of royalty on coal has submitted its report; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Coal had constituted a Study Group on 28.1.97 to interact with the coal producting States and the consuming bodies and to submit a report on the matter for assisting the Government in considering a revision in the rates of royalty. The Study Group has submitted its report. The recommendations of the Group are under consideration of the Government.

गुजरात को कोयले की आपूर्ति

438. **श्री अनन्तराव देवशंकर दवे:** क्या कोयला मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) गत तीन वर्षों के दौरान गुजरात में विद्युत संयंत्रों, सीमेंट संयंत्रों और रेलवे के लिए कोयले की वार्षिक मांग कितनी रही है;

(ख) उक्त वर्षों के दौरान इन क्षेत्रों को कोयले की कितनी मात्रा में आपूर्ति की गई;

(ग) क्या यह सच है कि इन क्षेत्रों को इनकी मांग के अनुरूप कोयले की पर्याप्त मात्रा में आपूर्ति नहीं की जाती है;

(घ) यदि हां, तो इसके क्या कारण हैं; और

(ङ) राज्य में इन सबको उनकी आवश्यकतानुसार कोयले की आपूर्ति किए जाने हेतु क्या कदम उठाए गए हैं?

कोयला मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री(श्री दिलीप राय): (क) और (ख) गुजरात में कोल इंडिया लि. के साथ संयोजित कोई कोयला आधारित इस्पात संयंत्र नहीं है। रेलवे की आपूर्ति हेतु को,इ.लि. के स्रोतो की भी मांग नहीं है। पिछले तीन वर्षों के दौरान गुजरात में कोयले की विद्युत तथा सीमेंट क्षेत्रों में मांग तथा आपूर्ति का ब्यौरा नीचे दर्शाया गया है :-

('000 टन में)

वर्ष	विद्युत		सीमेंट	
	मांग	आपूर्ति	मांग	आपूर्ति
1995-96	15120	13684	1239	377
1996-97	14025	13806	944	345
1997-98 (अनं.)	15150	16012	382	39

(ग) और (घ) गुजरात में विद्युत क्षेत्र को की जाने वाली कोयले की आपूर्ति न्यूनाधिक रूप से स्वीकृत संयोजन के आधार पर की जाती है। वर्ष 1997-98 के दौरान आपूर्ति, संयोजन से अधिक था। वर्ष 1995-96 और 1996-97 के दौरान आपूर्ति संयोजन से थोडा कम था।

गुजरात के सीमेंट संयंत्र, स्वीकृत संयोजन के अनुसार कोयला प्राप्त नहीं कर रहे हैं। उन्होंने कोयले के संचलन संबंधी कार्यक्रम को भी प्रस्तुत नहीं किया है। गुजरात